

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 30-51 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13-15, 18, and 30-39 have been amended. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 10, 31 and 32 were objected to; Claims 1-51 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; Claims 33 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite; Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tahara et al. (PCT Document WO00/46989, hereinafter "Tahara"); and Claims 1-18 and 32-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tahara further in view of Applicants' admitted prior art.

Responsive to the objection to Claims 10 and 32, last line as being unclear, the suggestion in the Office Action that the word "of" be added after "each" has been adopted.

Responsive to the objection to lines 1-3 of Claim 31, the language "said reproduction apparatus comprising" has been deleted pursuant to the suggestion made in the Office Action.

The statement in the Office Action that double brackets markings have been used in some claims to show added text is not understood. No specific examples were given. It is respectfully submitted that the use of double brackets in the amended claims has been done correctly pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 714 to indicate the deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters.

In rejecting Claims 1-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, the Office Action asserts that "[t]he specification as filed does not support the limitation of having the management information and the additional information next to each other in a physical

position.” Applicants respectfully disagree. Support for the recitation in the independent claims that the management information and the additional information are next to each other “in at least one of logical and physical positions” is found, by way of non-limiting example, in Fig. 7(B) and the associated specification description. That is, NV_PCK, which corresponds to navigation pack, and ARI_PCK, which corresponds to additional information, are shown in Fig. 7(B) as being physically positioned next to each other. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 1-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Responsive to the rejection of Claims 33 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, the language “video information” has been changed to “image data” to provide clear antecedent basis. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 33 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Each of the independent Claims 1, 10, and 30-32 recites “said additional information being supplemental information regarding said time-series information” and further recites that said additional information and said management information are next to each other on said recording medium in at least one of logical and physical positions. It is respectfully submitted that these features are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious by Tahara or Applicants’ FIGs. 9A and 9B.

The Office Action asserts that “Tahara discloses ... said management information and said additional information being recorded next to one another in at least one of logical and physical positions (see Figure 20, 21 and 26).” Applicants respectfully disagree.

Referring to Tahara U.S. Patent No. 6,671,323 B1 in concert with the Office Action, U.S. Patent Tahara describes “[s]uch ancillary data includes, but is not limited to, text data, closed-captioning data, VITC (vertical interval time code) defined by SMPTE RP164, and

LTC (linear time code) defined by RP196.” Tahara further describes “the ancillary data separating circuit 101 extracts the unique information possessed by input video data.”

Referring to Fig. 21, cited in the Office Action, Tahara describes in column 16, lines 63 column 17, line 1:

Now the syntax of Ancillary_data() that adds identifiers to ancillary data will be described with reference to FIG. 21. Ancillary_data(), which is inserted as user data in the picture layer, includes a field identifier (Field_ID), a line number (Line_number), and ancillary data.

Finally, Tahara shows the upper most line output from controller 405 in FIG. 31 as including ancillary data, line number, field ID, time code 1 and time code 2.

It is respectfully submitted, that, as represented by the above-quoted portions of Tahara, there is no description of management information and additional information being recorded in at least one of logical and physical positions next to each other. That is, Tahara describes ancillary data as including text data, closed-captioning data as well as SMPTE code data. Further, in the output of the upper line of controller 405 in Fig. 31 Tahara intermixes auxiliary data with line number, field ID, time code 1 and time code 2. Thus, there is no description in Tahara that additional information being supplemental information regarding said time-series information being recorded in a logical or physical position next to management information for use in a decoding/reproduction process for decoding and reproducing said time-series information as recited in independent Claims 1, 10 and 30-32.

It is respectfully submitted that dependent Claims 2-9, 11-18 and 33-51 are patentable at least for the reasons argued above with regard to the claims from which they depend.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1-18 and 30-51 is respectfully requested, and allowance of Claims 1-18 and 30-51 is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.


Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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